Reservation in Legislative Councils and Rajya Sabha

†2722. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce reservations in the Legislative Councils and the Rajya Sabha on the pattern of the Gram Sabhas, the District Panchayats and the Lok Sabha; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Tribunal for resolutions of tax related disputes

2723. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for constitution of an apex tribunal for resolution of the disputes in tax related cases, direct and indirect; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The National Tax Tribunal Bill 2004 which provides for setting up of a National Tax Tribunal for deciding cases relating to both direct and indirect taxes has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 6th December, 2004. The Bill Stand referred to Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances and Law and Justice.

Review of royalty rates of core minerals

†2724. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is provision to review the royality rates by Government on core minerals once in every three years under Section

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

9 of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957.

(b) if so, since when the work regarding review of the rates for Madhya Pradesh is pending; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard and by when the review would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. Section 9(3) of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act) provides that Central Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, amend the Schedule related to rates of royalty so as to enhance or reduce the rate at which royalty shall be payable in respect of any mineral with effect form such date as may be specified in the notification provided that the Central Government shall not enhance the rates of royalty in respect of minerals more than once during any period of three years.

(b) and (c) Rates of royalty of minerals other than fuel and minor minerals were last revised *vide* Gazette Notification GSR. 677(E) dated 14.10.2004 and are applicable to State of Madhya Pradesh also.

Royalty rates of minerals

†2725. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the existing royalty rates of the minerals like limestone, bauxite, iron ore and dolomite alongwith the dates these are effective from;

(b) whether Government propose to take any decision to fix the same as per the market prices thereof so that the States might reap the physical benefits of the minerals revenues;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Rates of royalty of minerals were recently revised *vide* Gazette Notification GSR. 677(E) dated 14.10.2004. The existing

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